Nothing's Wrong with Second

Midway Elementary's 2nd grade teacher named district's Teacher of the Year

By Jean Croasmun, Courier staff

Twenty-seven years ago, Sharon Jordan Jensen couldn't have told you she'd be teaching eight-year-olds during the new millennium. Twenty-seven years ago, Jensen, or Mrs. J. J., as her students call her, didn't know she'd be teaching at all.

"It's such a rewarding profession," says Jensen, anxiously awaiting the return of the students for the 1999-2000 school year. But it's not a profession that Jensen had originally planned for.

Jensen embarked on her career of teaching when her children were young and she was looking for a job that would allow her to spend as much time as possible with her own children. Her first assignment was Heber's Central School-2nd grade. She transferred to Midway Elementary when it opened over twenty years ago.

"I've always taught second grade," says Jensen, although at one time, she was an art specialist for the district. She thought in the past of switching grades, but ultimately realized that it was the second graders she loved to teach. "They build my ego everyday," she says.

It was that devotion to the selfless acts of wiping noses and teaching manners, in addition to nearly three decades of teaching children to read, write, create and wonder that earned Jensen a nomination from somewhere in the district. "I don't know who nominated me," Jensen says of the honor. Jensen only found out she was Wasatch County School District's Teacher of the Year a few weeks ago. And she was shocked.

"There are so many wonderful teachers," Jensen says of her peers in the district. "I feel honored that I can represent all of those hardworking, dedicated teachers."

While the glory is wonderful, Jensen is putting her recent accolades aside and worrying about things like text books and crayons and what to teach her newest batch of second graders. And while she works on her own class, Jensen can sense the immense talent and dedication around her, emanating from the other teachers in her school and the district.

"It could have been any one of them," says Jensen of her Teacher of the Year recognition. "I feel so honored that it was me."

Sharon Jordan Jensen prepares her classroom at Midway Elementary School, where she has taught since the school was built.

HVAC Orchestra Gets New Conductor

Heber Valley Arts Council has selected Park City teacher, musician and resident, Dennis Harrington, as the new conductor of the Mountain High Chamber Ensemble. Harrington, originally from Chicago, currently lives in Park City and teaches music at Park City High School.

Harrington first saw the arts council's orchestra, recently renamed the Mountain High Chamber Ensemble, only a year ago when members of the orchestra invited him to one of their performances. After the departure of the orchestra's former leader earlier this year, Harrington was approached by Heber Valley Arts Council president, Bob Donahue, about taking over the conductor role.

Harrington's goals for the orchestra include increasing the number of musicians in the orchestra and having the ensemble perform more frequently. Harrington is also planning to expand the ensemble's repertoire. Approximately 20 musicians from Wasatch and Summit Counties regularly perform with the ensemble, and according to Harrington there is always room for more in the orchestra.

The Mountain High Chamber Ensemble rehearses Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the new wing of the North School in Heber. Musicians interested in performing with the ensemble should contact Donahue at 654-2520 or come to a rehearsal.

Cows in Tutus?

Peoa's Cow Ballet celebrates beef's other side

The ladies were all decked out for Peoa's first Cow Ballet, a day-long event to benefit Peoa's parks and featuring, yes, cows in tutus.

Not all the girls were ready for their closeups. Some of the shyer ones preferred to show their better sides.

Scho

August 24
Soccer-Morgan at Wasa
School

August 25
CARES begins - Heber
Elementary School
Auditions for South Pa
WHS

August 26
High school make-up
Football (jv and soph)
WHS
Freshman football at
Truth in Taxation hear
of Education 7:00 p.m